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In the genus Andropogon are included, as sections or subgenera, some grasses which have been known as genera, and here some confusion may arise for the student—on page 61 the subgenus Chrysopogon does not, as might be supposed, include our species known as Chrysopogon nutans and C. secundum, these being by Mr. Hackel placed in the subgenus Sorghum although they are not specifically mentioned. The *Sorghum secundum* Chap. is called by Mr. Hackel in his monograph of Andropogoneæ, page 533, Andropogon unilaterale—the name secundum being appropriated by the *A. secundus* Willd., now, however, made a synonym of *A. contortus* Linn. Again on page 63, under subgenus Heteropogon, there are "5 species in the tropics, one of which is cosmopolitan as far north as South Europe and North America." No mention is here made of the *Andropogon melanocarpus* Ell. (*Heteropogon acuminatus* Trin.) which is found as far north as North Carolina. This omission is not, however, a fault of the translators, but might have been corrected by a note. On page 74, under Eriochloa it is said, "five species, in the tropical and subtropical zones of both hemispheres." Two or three at least of the species extend into the temperate zone, one as far as southern Kansas. On page 110, of the genus Thurberia it is said "species two, Arkansas and Texas." The range should be extended to Florida, and I think there is but one species. The genus Calamagrostis is here made to include Deyeuxia as a section, but the section *Calamovilfa* Gray, is raised to generic rank. Some botanists will prefer to retain it as placed by Dr. Gray, and to add to it a third Floridan species *C. Curtisii* Vasey (published as *Ammophila Curtisii* Vasey.)

These instances do not materially detract from the high value of the work, but are referred to to indicate a few points in which some additional editorial notes would have been an improvement.

The remarks made in the volume, respecting the habits and economic and medicinal uses of certain grasses, are of great interest and value. Those respecting the different varieties of the cultivated Sorghum (*Andropogon arundinaceus* Scop.) are especially interesting, although many will prefer to keep *A. halapensis* Sibth. as a distinct species. The notes on Saccharum, on sections Eupanicum, Setaria and Pennisetum are also interesting. The adoption of the genus Zizaniopsis for *Zizania miliacea* Michx. will be acceptable to botanists. The species seems to be rare in the northern states, although it is recorded in Gray's Manual from Ohio and doubtfully from Penn. The notes relating to the history of our cultivated cereals are very valuable.—GEO. VASEY, *Washington, D. C.*

Pithecolobium Texense Coulter.—In studying the material of Nealley's Texan collection (Contr. Nat. Herb. 2. 37) I was forced into Pithecolobium by indisputable floral characters, at the same time recognizing the exact similarity in every other respect to what has been called *Acacia flexicaulis* from the same region. Strangely enough, the status of

Bentham's A. flexicaulis was not questioned. It is now found, however, that flowering specimens collected by Gregg, evidently our Pithecolobium, were named Acacia flexicaulis by Bentham, certainly without a careful examination of the flowers; and that the original specimens of Berlandier, from Tamaulipas, were flowerless. It seems safe to conclude that all that has ordinarily been called Acacia flexicaulis must be referred to Pithecolobium Texense; and its recent discovery by Dr. Palmer at La Paz extends its range through Southern Texas and Northern Mexico to the western side of the continent. In the absence of flowering specimens from Berlandier's locality it is hardly safe to conclude that Bentham's original A. flexicaulis of necessity must be our Pithecolobium. If this can be proved, the long known specific name could well replace the newer and our plant be known as P. flexicaule. It is more prudent, however, to consider that Bentham's original A. flexicaulis possibly may prove to be an Acacia after all, and to leave it a name and place.

JOHN M. COULTER.

CURRENT LITERATURE.

A biological survey.

THE *North American Fauna*, No. 3, published by the Division of Ornithology and Mammalogy of the Department of Agriculture, contains a matter of very great interest to botanists. Dr. C. Hart Merriam, the chief of the Division, has felt the necessity of putting the biological exploration of the country upon a thoroughly scientific basis. The patchy collecting and inaccurate noting of localities, which has largely obtained in our exploring expeditions, may be conceded to a vast *terra incognita* such as our western botanists first encountered; but no such concession should be made now, and " collecting trips " should be transformed into " biological surveys." Dr. Merriam has begun the good work by a careful study of the very interesting San Francisco Mountain Region of Arizona, and although his chief concern lay with vertebrate animals, his zones of distribution were necessarily marked out by plant growth, and his results are not only of great botanical interest, but are far more valuable in that they mark out a line of botanical work which the government should at once enter upon and push to its completion. The paper before us not only deals with the biological features of the San Francisco Mountain region, but is also a valuable contribution to the general subject of geographical distribution. This paper should be read by every botanist, and we only append a statement of the most important general results as given by the author: (1) The discovery that there are but two primary life areas in N. Am., a northern (boreal) and a southern (subtropical), both extending completely across the continent and sending off long interpenetrating arms; (2) The consequent abandonment of the three life